

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A respiratory mask arrangement comprising:
 - a sealing portion for resting on and forming a seal with a facial surface of a mask user,
 - a covering portion which in cooperation with the sealing portion defines a mask interior,
 - a headband arrangement coupled to the covering portion,
 - a respiratory gas conduit for delivering respiratory gas to the mask interior defined by the covering portion, the mask interior communicating with the nostril opening of the mask user in use, wherein the respiratory gas conduit is connected to the covering portion, ~~and~~ the covering portion includes a woven material to which the conduit is directly connected, and the covering portion is inflated under the influence of the respiratory gas in use.
2. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask arrangement in accordance with claim 1, wherein the woven material comprises an air-permeable woven material.
3. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask arrangement in accordance with claim 1, wherein the covering portion is made from a porous material.
4. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask arrangement in accordance with claim 1, wherein the covering portion is a flexible material.
5. (Currently Amended) The respiratory mask arrangement in accordance with claim 2, wherein an air permeability of the air-permeable woven material and ~~the an~~ an area of ~~the a~~ a portion defined thereby are selected to produce a sufficient outflow of gas from the mask interior.
6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask arrangement in accordance with claim 1, wherein the woven material comprises GORE-TEX® material.
8. (Currently Amended) The respiratory mask arrangement in accordance with claim 1, wherein the sealing portion is glued or vulcanized or sprayed onto the covering ~~device~~ portion.
9. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask arrangement in accordance with claim 1, wherein the covering portion is detachably coupled with the sealing portion.
10. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask arrangement in accordance with claim 1, wherein the sealing portion is embodied integrally with the covering portion.
- 11-30. (Canceled)
31. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask arrangement in accordance with claim 1, wherein the woven material covers substantially an entire front side of the respiratory mask.
32. (Currently Amended) A respiratory mask, comprising:
a covering portion of a woven material, the covering portion covering substantially ~~the~~ an entire front side of the mask,
a respiratory gas conduit connected to the woven material of the covering portion for delivering respiratory gas to the respiratory mask,
a receiving portion formed on a back side of the mask, the receiving portion for receiving a nasal region of a user,
a seal portion for forming a seal with the nasal region of the user,
a first headband connector disposed on a first lateral side of the covering portion and a second headband connector disposed on a second lateral side of the covering portion, and
a headband arrangement connected to the first headband connector and the second headband connector for securing the respiratory mask to the user, wherein the covering portion is inflated under the influence of the respiratory gas in use.

33. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask of claim 32, wherein the covering portion is flexible.
34. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask of claim 32, wherein the covering portion is a GORE-TEX® material.
35. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask of claim 32, wherein the covering portion is porous.
36. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask of claim 32, wherein the receiving opening is shaped to form a seal with an upper lip region and a bridge of the nose region of the user.
37. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask of claim 32, wherein the headband arrangement is connected to covering portion at side portions of the covering portion.
38. (Previously Presented) A respiratory mask for delivering breathable gas to a patient at a level that is above ambient pressure, the mask comprising:
- a mask body including a front portion and a rear portion opposite the front portion, the front portion and the rear portion cooperating to define a mask interior to communicate with a source of pressurized gas,
 - the rear portion including a seal portion to cross over the patient's nasal bridge region and seal around the patient's nose and/or mouth region in use, and a receiving opening surrounded by the seal portion to receive the patient's nose and/or mouth within the mask interior in use,
 - the front portion including a gas outflow area to provide a diffuse outflow of gas from the mask interior to atmosphere in a quiet manner,
 - a pair of headgear connectors, one of said pair of connectors extending laterally away from each side of the mask body,
 - a headband arrangement coupled to each said headgear connector to support the mask body on the patient's head in use,

the front portion comprising a flexible portion of material which is inflated under the influence of the pressurized gas in use, the flexible portion extending across the mask body from one side of the mask body to the other,

the flexible portion of material includes at least one stitched seam segment, the at least one stitched seam segment and a shape of the flexible portion of material being configured and arranged to provide a defined shape upon supply of the pressurized gas to the mask interior, and

a connection stub coupled to the flexible portion of material and adapted to be coupled to a respiratory gas hose.

39. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask of claim 38, wherein the flexible portion of material comprises a plastic film having perforations to act as the gas outflow area.
40. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask of claim 38, wherein the flexible portion of material comprises a woven material, a non-woven material, a filter material, or a porous material.
41. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask of claim 38, wherein the flexible portion of material includes warp threads and weft threads, with interstices therebetween.
42. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask of claim 38, wherein the flexible portion of material comprises a layer of woven material.
43. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask of claim 42, wherein the woven material comprises GORE-TEX®.
44. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask of claim 38, wherein the seal portion includes an elastomer portion at least in an upper lip region of the seal portion.

45. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask of claim 38, wherein the seal portion includes an upper lip region to seal against an upper lip region of the patient in use.
46. (Previously Presented) A respiratory mask for delivering breathable gas to a patient at a level that is above ambient pressure, the mask comprising:
- a mask body including a front portion and a rear portion opposite the front portion, the front portion and the rear portion cooperating to define a mask interior to communicate with a source of pressurized gas,
 - the rear portion including a nasal bridge region and a nose and/or mouth region, the rear portion including a receiving opening to receive the patient's nose and/or mouth within the mask interior in use,
 - the front portion including a gas outflow area to provide a diffuse outflow of gas from the mask interior to atmosphere,
 - a pair of headgear connectors, one of said pair of connectors extending laterally away from each side of the mask body,
 - a headband arrangement coupled to each said headgear connector to support the mask body on the patient's head in use,
 - the front portion consisting essentially of a flexible portion of material which is inflated under the influence of the pressurized gas in use, and
 - a connection stub coupled to the flexible portion of material and adapted to be coupled to a respiratory gas hose.
47. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask of claim 46, wherein the flexible portion of material is a woven material, a non-woven material, a filter material, or a porous material.
48. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask of claim 47, wherein the flexible portion comprises a woven material in the form of GORE-TEX®.
49. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask of claim 46, wherein the flexible portion of material comprises a plastic film having perforations to act as the gas outflow area.

50. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask of claim 46, wherein the flexible portion of material includes warp threads and weft threads, with interstices therebetween.
51. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask of claim 46, wherein the rear portion includes an elastomer portion at least in an upper lip region thereof.
52. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask of claim 46, wherein the rear portion includes an upper lip region to seal against an upper lip region of the patient in use.
53. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask of claim 46, wherein the flexible portion includes a woven material layer and an impermeable material layer applied to the woven material layer.
54. (Previously Presented) A respiratory mask for delivering breathable gas to a patient at a level that is above ambient pressure, the mask comprising:
- a mask body including a front portion and a rear portion opposite the front portion, the front portion and the rear portion cooperating to define a mask interior to communicate with a source of pressurized gas,
 - the rear portion including a nasal bridge region and a lip region, the rear portion including a receiving opening to receive the patient's nose and/or mouth within the mask interior in use,
 - the front portion including a top portion opposite from the nasal bridge region and a bottom portion opposite from the lip region, and the front portion including a gas outflow area to provide a diffuse outflow of gas from the mask interior to atmosphere,
 - a pair of headgear connectors, one of said pair of connectors extending laterally away from each side of the mask body,
 - a headband arrangement coupled to each said headgear connector to support the mask body on the patient's head in use,
 - the front portion consisting essentially of a flexible portion of GORE-TEX® material which is inflated under the influence of the pressurized gas in use, the GORE-TEX® material

extending on the front portion over substantially an entire area between the pair of headgear connectors and between the top portion and the bottom portion, and

a connection stub coupled to the flexible portion of material and adapted to be coupled to a respiratory gas hose.

55. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask of claim 54, wherein the rear portion includes an elastomer portion at least in the lip region thereof.

56. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask of claim 54, wherein the flexible portion comprises a woven material.

57. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask of claim 54, wherein the flexible portion has perforations to act as the gas outflow area.

58. (Previously Presented) The respiratory mask arrangement in accordance with claim 1, wherein the woven material extends over substantially an entire area of the covering portion.

59. (New) The respiratory mask of claim 38, wherein the at least one stitched seam segment comprises a plurality of stitched seam segments.

60. (New) The respiratory mask of claim 59, wherein the plurality of stitched seam segments comprise a plurality of vertical stitched seam segments.

61. (New) The respiratory mask of claim 59, wherein a plurality of woven material zones are defined between the plurality of stitched seam segments.

62. (New) The respiratory mask of claim 61, wherein the course of the stitched seam segments and a shape of the woven material zones are adapted to provide the defined shape upon supply of the pressurized gas to the mask interior.